

Cape Florida State Recreation Area Wetlands Restoration

Restoration Plan Database: Crystal Reports of Individual Plan Summaries

I. BASIC PLAN DATA

Plan name:

Cape Florida State Recreation Area Wetlands Restoration

Brief description of plan:

Cape Florida is located sixteen kilometers southeast of Miami, Florida on the southern tip of Key Biscayne, a natural barrier island. The cultural resources of the park include five documented pre-Columbian and historic sites. Most prominent of the sites is the Cape Florida Lighthouse, built in 1825. The restoration plan involves the removal of exotics, removal of portions of the bulkhead and fill, placement of a protective limerock barrier, elevation grading, creation of isolated freshwater wetlands, tidal pools, flushing channels, and the planting of wetland vegetation. The Plan was developed through review of historical documents (1926 aerial photographs and personal documentation) and field investigations of site characteristics that include topographical, biological, geotechnical, hydrological and archaeological reviews of the site.

Region the plan is located within:

South-Atlantic Region

Watershed(s) included within the plan:

S203X , S206X

Area plan covers (in square miles):

square miles

Plan scale:

Multi-county

Plan's lead organization(s):

Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM)

Plan's Main Contact Information:

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On-line version of plan:

www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/derm/Ecosystems/library/Cape_Florida_Restoration.pdf

Date of original plan:

1994

Date of plan update:

1999

II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Plan includes restoration goals: Y

Level of detail of the goals:

MS

Summary of the goals:

This Plan calls for the creation of 10 acres of freshwater isolated wetlands and 75 acres of tidally connected wetlands.

Plan recommends restoration of specific project sites:

Y

Plan includes a discussion of funding sources:

Y

Plan addresses long-term protection of restored sites:

Partners included in developing the plan:

Federal
State
Local

Type(s) of public outreach included during plan development:

Information not available

Plan includes public outreach as part of plan implementation (e.g. annual public meeting, local group participation):

Y

Plan discusses the application of innovative approaches to restoration:

N

Plan make use of GIS mapping capabilities:

N

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for ecosystem level monitoring (baseline conditions) by:

S

Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for project level monitoring by:

G

The plan discusses or coordinates with other restoration plans covering the same geographic area:

Y

Other plan names:

DERM Biscayne Bay Coastal Habitat Restoration Program

Plan contains detailed information on historic and/or current habitat size, rate of loss, acres restored or protected, etc.):

Y

Summary of this habitat information:

Cape Florida is located sixteen kilometers southeast of Miami, Florida on the southern tip of Key Biscayne, a natural barrier island. During the early 1950's, approximately 380 acres of natural vegetation on the south end of Key Biscayne were filled with dredged Biscayne Bay bottom for development purposes. The area became populated by a dense upland forest of invasive exotic Australian pines and twenty-nine other invasive exotic species. In addition, approximately two miles of concrete bulkhead was installed to contain approximately three million cubic yards of fill that added five feet of elevation to the area. In 1966, the State of Florida acquired the 406 acre tract of land and in 1969 designated it a State Recreation Area. Upon acquisition, only 27 acres of the park's uplands supported natural plant communities. The passage of the northern eye wall of Hurricane Andrew (1992) destroyed the Australian pine forest that covered approximately 380 acres of the Park. In the aftermath of the storm, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Park and Recreation (FDEP) developed a recovery and restoration plan for the park with the major objective being to restore to the extent possible, the historic vegetation types present on this portion of Key Biscayne. Vegetation types included beach dune, coastal strand, maritime hammock, isolated freshwater wetland and a large tract of tidally connected mangrove wetland in the northwestern portion of the park. The ecological importance of coastal wetlands as habitat and as a vital link in the main food web has been well documented.